Randolph Air Force Base ◆ Texas

60th Year ♦ No. 2 ♦ January 13, 2006

# Dining facility competes for AF award

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The Randolph Dining Facility was recently named best in Air Education and Training Command after beating out three other bases in the small category competition in November.

As a command-level winner, the Randolph team now goes on to represent AETC in the same category in the Air Force Hennessy Award competition in early February.

The Hennessy Award is given to the best dining facility in the Air Force. The Air Force Hennessy team visits Randolph Feb. 2-3 to evaluate the dining facility.

"This is the first time in almost 10 years that the team has visited the Randolph Dining Facility," said Randy Harris, 12th Services Division. "We're really excited and positive about the evaluation."

The award is based on the base's overall food service program, and covers such areas as kitchen operations; serving and dining operations; training; personnel and readiness; sanitation and repair maintenance; and management effectiveness.

"We have a mission to provide meals and give our customers the best the Air Force has to offer," said Frank Anderson, food service officer. "Just winning at the command-level proves we do our job to the best of our ability while putting our customers first."

The dining facility has 45 employees who work throughout the week to make everyone's dining experience a great one, Mr. Anderson said.

"With a variety of meals served every day by friendly faces, the dining facility dishes up something

See **Dining facility** on page 4



Toni Vasquez of the Randolph Dining Facility serves a customer breakfast Tuesday. The dining facility recently garnered top honors in the small category of the Air Education and Training Command competition. (Photo by Steve White)

# 2006 defense budget increases pay

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – President George W. Bush ushered in an acrossthe-board 3.1 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1.

It includes a variety of new or enhanced benefits for servicemembers and their families when he signed the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill into law Jan. 6.

In addition to a pay raise that's a half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits. This reflects a trend DOD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector.

The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate servicemembers, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention, Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation, said.

"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very important pays," he said.

Among the law's most significant features are:

- An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to 90,000;
- A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000;
- A new ceiling on hardship-duty pay, from \$300 to \$750 a month;
- A doubling of the maximum

assignment incentive pay for hard-tofill billets or assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments;

- A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom;
- A new bonus of up to \$2,500 for servicemembers who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years;
- An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for servicemembers who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training;
- An average 5.9 percent increase in housing allowances, with authority to increase set levels temporarily by as much as 20 percent in areas affected by

See Military pay on page 4

## Circle closed, east gate open Jan. 20

Washington Circle is closed Thursday and Jan. 20 for the 12th Flying Training Wing change of command ceremony.

The inner circle is closed to traffic Thursday starting at 9 a.m. for setup of the stage and bleachers. The outer circle will remain open.

Early Jan. 20, prior to the start of the duty day, the entire circle will be blocked to traffic until early in the evening. To ease traffic congestion on Jan. 20, the east gate will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

12th Flying	Training	Wing	Training	Status
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Pilot Instructor Training
As of Monday

Squadron Seniors Overall

99th FTS -4.5 -1.0

558th FTS -9.0 -1.7

559th FTS -11.2 -1.7

560th FTS -3.5 0.9

Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.

Navigator, EWO Students							
562nd	563rd FTS						
CSO/NFO		CSO		Graduate EW	0		
USAF	234	OPS	45	International	0		
Navy	37	Advanced EW	20	EW Course	0		
International	0	Integration	25	Intro to EW	16		
Total in Trainin	g 274		90		16		
Numbers reflect students surrently in training. The E/2nd should excure of							

Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of combat systems officer students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.

Wing Flying Hour Program Aircraft Required Flown Annual T-1A 2889.0 2749.6 10,725 4609.6 4398.5 17,196 T-6A T-37B 1295.5 1289.5 5,796 T-38C 2455.9 2514.1 9,937 T-43 1112.3 1047.3 3,982

The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2005 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2006.

# AIR AND SPACE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

As of Monday, 106 Team Randolph members are deployed in support of military operations around the globe

### Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

<b>Agency Contact</b>	Numbers
12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
<b>Equal Opportunity</b>	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
<b>Housing Maintenance</b>	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
<b>Security Forces</b>	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Sexual Assault	
<b>Response Coordinator</b>	652-8787

652-7469

652-4314

**Straight Talk** 

**Transportation** 

# "PROTECT YOUR WINGMAN"

DUI...
It's a crime not a mistake

Team Randolph's last DUI was August 2, 2005

# **AETC** commander looks back, forward

**By Gen. William Looney III**Air Education and Training Command commander

By any measure, 2005 was a memorable year... a year marked by unprecedented disasters, excruciating sacrifices, and dramatic aspirations for peace, freedom and dignity.

The world mourned the passing of prominent figures such as Pope John Paul II, Rosa Parks and Simon Wiesenthal. Among the honored American dead in the Global War on Terrorism, we laid to rest one of our own, Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Jacobson.

Reminding us of the need to remain vigilant in the Global War on Terrorism, in 2005 the forces of violent extremism struck again in London and then in Jordan. In addition to this man-made scourge, we witnessed natural disasters that defied imagination, from the horrible destruction wrought by the Asian tsunami and South Asian earthquake to the painful images of our own people suffering in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

In the midst of these gut-wrenching tragedies, we were privileged as Airmen to join countless others in saving lives, providing comfort and offering hope. Other stories of heroism shone brightly throughout the turbulent year.

As a result of their Orange Revolution, the people of Ukraine won a victory for democratic principles and the rule of law. The crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery returned to space. And in just a single year, the people of Iraq elected a Transitional National Assembly, ratified a constitution and elected their first permanent government since the toppling of Saddam Hussein. Likewise, the people of Afghanistan inaugurated their first elected parliament in more than three decades.

Of course, we can't forget the brave American servicemen and women who made these monumental events possible.

As it was with the rest of the world, 2005 was a landmark year for the First Command. We faced a number of

challenges and achieved tremendous success as we fulfilled our mission to develop America's Airmen today for tomorrow. Our recruiters nimbly shifted operations to help the Air Force meet our congressionally mandated endstrength, bringing on 20,000 new enlisted and officer personnel in the process.

In addition to graduating nearly 22,000 enlisted members, we initiated a profound shift in the way we conduct Basic Military Training. BMT resequenced its schedule to mirror the AEF cycle and provide more readiness and combat skills training to our new enlisted Airmen.

Executing the Air Force's largest flying program, 19th Air Force organizations flew nearly 560,000 hours to graduate more than 20,000 aircrew members. We've nearly completed our seamless conversion to the T-6A and the T-38C, and the First Command made it possible for Air Combat Command to declare initial operational capability for the F-22A Raptor.

In the arena of initial and advanced skills training, 2nd Air Force and our technical training units graduated nearly 190,000 students.

Finally, Air University provided military, continuing and academic education to 179,000 graduates via residence and distance learning programs.

Bottom line, the First Command recruited, trained and educated 432,000 Airmen last year. Just for some perspective, think of everyone who attended this year's Rose Bowl – then quadruple that number. That's how many Airmen we developed for our Air Force and the joint warfighter in 2005. We did it while deploying 3,822 AETC Airmen to fight the GWOT. We did it while responding to and recovering from the worst natural disaster in the history of our country.

Looking back, I'm amazed by what we've accomplished. Looking forward, I'm more optimistic than ever. The First Command has a strong strategy for the future. We're going to continue to develop America's Airmen by delivering a highly qualified,



Gen. William Looney III



expeditionary focused force, by quickly responding to the needs of gaining commanders and by championing the Air Force story.

We'll concentrate our talent, energy and resources through programs and initiatives that deliver measurable payback in recruiting, training and educating our force. And we'll continue to strengthen our foundation – our people. By developing and supporting our people, we'll not only accomplish our mission, we'll make AETC the Air Force's "command of choice."

Thank you for your commitment and sacrifice as we continue to deliver unrivaled education and training to the greatest Air and Space Force the world has ever seen. And thank you for your integrity, service and excellence in defending the precious people and values of the United States of America. I can think of no greater calling... no greater privilege... no greater reward. This year is going to be great for AETC, the Air Force and the Nation. Marilyn and I hope 2006 is great for you and your family, too!

### WINGSPREAD

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Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

### **Congratulations Retirees**

January 11
Ettie Wenzler
12th Contracting Squadron

Today
Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Lee
Air Education and Training Command

Today
Chief Master Sgt. Glenda Solomon
12th Operations Group

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication.

E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

## Needs of AF, force shaping and one lieutenant's morale

By 1st Lt. Kristen Duncan 96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) – Balance the officer and enlisted corps. That is the current need of the Air Force. As an officer and a second generation Airman, I've been told from day one, the "needs of the Air Force" come first.

What happens when those needs mean the loss of my job - and not just my job, but a career of integrity, service and excellence? I vowed to protect the Constitution. To continue what my father and the greatest generation did in World War II. I am truly a patriot. I am an Airman.

With force shaping, Air Force leadership is undertaking the very difficult task of reducing its forces. Brig. Gen. Kathleen Close, the Air

"... the caliber of our lieutenants is unparalleled. The question is what does this do to our morale?"

Force Material Command director of installations and mission support, said the leadership knows they could be losing a future commander or a future general. But the Air Force can no longer support the imbalance of officers to enlisted troops.

To support the mission, the service has to reduce its 2002 and 2003 lieutenants through volunteer or forced separations.

That equals more than 4,000 young, promising lieutenants. One thing is certain; the caliber of our lieutenants is unparalleled. The question is what does this do to our morale?

Working on various projects, I have to wonder, will any of this mean anything if I'm force-shaped? Will I still be able to lead my troops? Is my morale going to take a nose dive? What if I work harder than I've ever worked to impress the heck out of every commander I've ever met? How do I keep focused on my job and my mission?

The answer is really quite simple. We should all work harder, not to impress for fear of losing our jobs, but because we are all officers who strive for excellence. We should continue to accomplish our jobs with the same

unfailing performance and the same can-do attitude we've always had.

We should continue to work hard for our shops, our troops, our families, our nation and ourselves.

In one of the hardest hit career fields, I've examined all my options and have come up with a few ideas: navigator training, Palace Chase and even switching services. Thankfully, the Air Force is giving us options. I've come to realize, though, that serving my country means serving its needs. The needs of the Air Force must always come first.

I hope to make a career of the "blue." But even if my active-duty career is cut short, it is for the mission of the Air Force and the U.S. military that I will serve and honorably discharge.

It could be my last official act. But I am, and will always be, an Airman.

### Every part counts in the Air Force puzzle of mission accomplished

By Capt. Julie Wokaty-Kozma 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFPN) - Descending into Baghdad, my C-130 Hercules crew prepares for landing.

The copilot coordinates with air traffic control while the navigator ensures we follow desired ground track to the field. The flight engineer runs checklists and the loadmasters scan for threats. We configure close to the airfield and the plane lands safely.

Through all the maneuvering, I have a sense of deja vu. I've done all this before, but never with this group of people. It's the same, yet different.

I arrived at Ali Base the last week in December and soon set out on my first Operation Iraqi Freedom mission in more than a year. While it was far from my first time flying in combat, it was my first time flying with this crew.

I knew little more about them than their name,

rank and crew position. What enables a crew of people who have never flown together before to successfully accomplish a combat mission?

I believe the answer boils down to the professional integrity of the crewmembers and the support Airmen on the ground. This professional integrity comes from knowing your job, performing your duties to the best of your ability and constantly striving to improve your skills.

From my perspective as a C-130 pilot, I know that each crewmember is trained in specific duties and must be able to perform proficiently. The training and checklists are standardized. Everybody knows what to expect and what's expected from them.

Each piece of the puzzle is important, unique and irreplaceable.

My part of the puzzle (and yours) fits into the overall picture. Each Air Force Specialty Code has its own unique piece, which is irreplaceable.

Professional integrity allows us to trust that others are doing their jobs correctly. I count on the

professional integrity of maintenance Airmen, intel Airmen and air terminal operations center Airmen in my job – to name a few. Being able to trust in their abilities and integrity saves crucial time in a combat zone. This trust is vital to mission accomplishment.

Professional integrity also involves challenging yourself to stay at the top of your game and never growing complacent. The enemy and their weapons are constantly changing. Every Airman must stay ahead of these changes to win the war. Keeping up on the latest tactics, techniques and procedures keeps our skills sharp and up to date.

Knowing you work hard to be your best at your job and trusting others to do the same, that's the professional integrity that allows us to show up in a combat zone and complete a mission with people we have never worked with.

No matter how your duties fit into the puzzle, you are vital to the Air Force mission. Wherever your piece of the puzzle fits, work hard to bring the entire picture together for mission accomplishment.

### NEWS

### **Main attraction**



Tech. Sgt. Geoffrey Rodgers of the 12th Security Forces Squadron checks an ID card at the main gate Monday. The gate opened for business Jan. 6 after more than a year and a half of construction. The entrance features three inbound lanes that feed traffic through the gatehouse from FM 78 and two Harmon Drive outbound lanes that expand into four lanes outside the gate to feed traffic onto Pat Booker Road and east and west onto FM 78. (Photo by Steve White)

### **Gate Hours**

Gate Weekdays 24 hours Main 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. West 6-8 a.m. inbound only East

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. South 6-8:30 a.m. inbound only

Weekends/Holidays

24 hours Main 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. West Closed East Closed South

**NEWS** Wingspread January 13, 2006

# Civilian pay raise takes effect

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) - The upcoming pay period for Defense Department civilian General Schedule employees reflects a 2.1 percent across-the-board pay raise.

It also includes a range of locality pays that bring the overall pay hikes between 2.83 and 5.62 percent, an Office of Personnel Management spokesman said.

The 2006 federal pay raise goes into effect with the first full pay period of the year, which for most DOD employees begins Sunday, Mike Orenstein told the American Forces Press Service.

President George W. Bush signed into law the legislation that provides for the federal pay raise on Nov. 30.

Pay charts on the OPM Web site show new annual and hourly rates for GS workers, DOD's white-collar work force and special geographically

unique charts cover increases in 31 designated locality pay areas. Wagegrade or blue-collar workers, who make up a small percentage of the DOD work force, will receive comparable increases for their areas, Mr. Orenstein said.

The GS workers not in a designated locality pay area come under the "rest of the United States" designation on the charts and will receive a 2.83 percent pay increase, Mr. Orenstein

The exception are GS workers in Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. territories, who receive a nonforeign cost of living allowance that was first introduced in the mid-1940s to attract workers, he said.

Among GS workers in designated locality pay areas within the continental United States, those in the Raleigh-Durham-Cary, N.C., region are this year's biggest winners, receiving a 5.6 percent increase, Mr. Orenstein said.

This is the first time this area is a designated locality pay area, and the 2006 pay hike is designed to help bring that region's salaries more on par with those offered in the private sector, he said. Future pay hikes for the region are not likely to be as high.

Other locality pay areas to receive significant hikes this year are San Francisco-San Jose-Oakland, 3.95 percent; New York-Newark, 3.77 percent; Buffalo, 3.75 percent; Hartford, Conn., 3.62 percent; and the Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia region, 3.44 percent.

Locality pay is based not on the cost of living, but on the cost of labor in a particular area, Mr. Orenstein said. By offering locality pay to workers in those regions, government agencies can be more competitive in recruiting and retaining qualified workers, he

More information and pay chart information is provided on the OPM Web site at www.opm.gov.

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Officers picked for promotion

Two 12th Medical Group officers received the news Tuesday they had been selected for promotion when the Air Force announced the results of the recent major, lieutenant colonel and colonel selection board for medical corps and dental corps

Maj. (Dr.) Richard Eckert of the 12th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron was selected for promotion to lieutenant

Capt. Keith Fisher of the 12th Medical Operations Squadron was picked for promotion to major.

#### Wing sets change of command

Col. Richard Clark takes command of the 12th Flying Training Wing from Col. John Hesterman at a 2 p.m. ceremony in Washington Circle Jan. 20.

In case of bad weather, the ceremony will take place in Hangar 4.

Colonel Hesterman has commanded the 12th FTW since May 2004.

Colonel Clark has served as 12th FTW vice wing commander since June 2005.j

#### Access to Perimeter Road

Perimeter Road inside the east gate is open each weekday after the temporary visitor center closes for business at 4 p.m. and all customers leave the parking lot.

At that time, security forces will close the east gate and open the Perimeter Road and 5th Street gates on the fence line that surrounds the visitor center.

The gates remain open from Friday afternoon through the weekend until the east gate opens Monday at 6 a.m.

### Sexual assault prevention

The sexual assault program office holds the last of the one-hour training sessions for civilians today at 8:30 and 10 a.m. in the base theater.

For more information, call 652-4386.

### CDC course honorees

The following 12th Mission Support Group Airmen recently scored 90 percent or higher on their Career Development Course examinations: Staff Sgt. Jason Lambert, Senior Airman Seth Bostelman, Senior Airman Frank Radis and Senior Airman Nathan Gleason.

### Air Force monster truck visits today

The Air Force Recruiting Service monster truck will be on display today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the BXtra parking

Members of the Randolph community are invited to stop by to view the truck.

### Commissary scholarship applications

Application forms are available at the commissary for the Scholarships for Military Children program. The program is open to unmarried children of active duty, Reserve, Guard and retired military members, under the age of 21 or under 23 if already enrolled in school.

Applications must be submitted in person at a base commissary by 4;30 p.m. Feb. 22. Application forms and information are available at www.militaryscholar.org or at commissaries.com.

### VFW honors teachers

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4676 in Universal City recently held its awards night ceremony recognizing local educators and emergency services people.

The following Randolph Field Independent School District teachers were among the honorees: Debbie Magnon-Nolting, high school; Diane Hogan, middle school; and Tess Gooden, elementary school.

# Hennessy judges to visit Feb. 2-3

Continued from Page 1



Velma Campos, pastry baker and salad preparer, makes a pie in the dining facility kitchen. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

## **Dining facility**

good to eat in a comfortable environment," he

One of the dining facility's regulars, a meal cardholder, said he appreciates the selection and quality of the facility's food.

"The dining facility has a good selection, good atmosphere, and always great food. The ethnic lunches on Tuesday are my favorite," said Airman 1st Class James Heathcoat of the 12th Operations Support Squadron.

The dining facility is open Monday through Friday from 6-8 a.m. for breakfast, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch, and 4:30-6:30 p.m. for dinner.

Enlisted, TDY members and retirees can eat during all the meal times. Officers, if not TDY, can eat only on the Air Force's Birthday, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

The dining facility also provides meal services to visiting Junior ROTC and ROTC units, as well as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other special groups who tour the base.

"The dining facility provides meals to a variety of members on Randolph," Mr. Anderson said. "We just want to make sure the service and food we provide are the best they can be."

### Military pay

Continued from Page 1

natural disasters or troop surges resulting from force realignments;

- An increase of 2,000 pounds in the household goods weight allowance for senior noncommissioned officers E-7 and above:
- Enhanced death benefits, resulting in a total of \$238,000 for all deaths not previously qualified for enhanced benefits, and the permanent institution of a policy that continues the basic allowance for housing or government quarters for one year for families of deceased servicemembers:
- · Authority to pay the applicable overseas cost-of-living allowance to dependents who remain at their location outside the continental United States when a servicemember deploys from that location:
  - · Expanded eligibility or increased

ceilings for special pays for designated bonuses, from \$10,000 and \$15,000, medical and dental officers, and respectively, to a consolidated officers with nuclear qualifications;

- A bonus of up to \$12,000 per year for both active and reserve members with certified language proficiency;
- · Payment of travel and lodging for families of hospitalized servicemembers wounded in combat zones or other designated areas.

The law also provides a variety of specifically benefits targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

- Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days, vs. the previous 140-day requirement;
- Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to active duty, based on specific guidelines provided in the
- · Increases in the maximum payment for accession and affiliation

\$20,000 for enlistment in the Selected Reserve;

- · Boosts in the maximum affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;
- A bonus that could total up to \$100,000 over a career for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit; and
- Extension of eligibility for a priorservice enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized that the new law does not guarantee all servicemembers will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts

More information about pay and benefits is posted on DOD's military compensation Web site at www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/.

# AETC contract negotiator wins DoD award

By Megan Orton

Air Education and Training Command **Public Affairs** 

Reinette Alecozay, Air Education and Training Command Contracting Squadron contract negotiator, was named Small Business Contracting Professional of the Year at the Department of Defense 2004 Small Business Awards ceremony at the Pentagon Dec. 12.

Ms. Alecozay was chosen for this award for her leadership as the contracting officer for a Foreign Military Sales contract with Northwest Florida Facilities Management, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., for flightline maintenance at Luke AFB, Ariz., in 2004.

"Due to the smaller size of this acquisition, this was the first opportunity for small businesses to propose on an aircraft maintenance contract for Air Education and Training Command," Ms. Alecozay said. "My customers were in full agreement to restrict this acquisition to small business."

Before this contract, the foreign flightline maintenance was performed by U.S. military personnel. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that as a result of this conversion, the DoD has the potential to save over \$10 million over the 5-year life of the contract.

"NFFM has been doing an excellent job, and we're very happy with them," Alecozay said. "That's what you want with aircraft maintenance. You don't want low bid; you want best value; you want better and safer."

The Department of Defense tries to contract out to small businesses whenever possible, Ms. Alecozay said, and sets annual goals for small business participation.

"We do our best to meet those goals, but in international contracting usually our hands are tied as far as who the contract is awarded to," Ms. Alecozay said. "The rest of AETC contracting has a little more liberty than we do because our contract sources are usually dictated by the country, so this was a very unique and exciting opportunity."

Foreign governments have two choices when it comes to contracting with U.S. firms: buying directly or FMS. FMS requires a foreign country to trust contracting officers like Ms. Alecozay to locate and negotiate with U.S. companies, some of which they might never find without this aid. Ms. Alecozay's team was responsible for seeking sources through extensive research to find the best contractor for the best price.

"Source selection is a big operation," Ms. Alecozay said. "Our source selection authority was a three-star general. After a very in-depth evaluation by the team, the source selection authority decides which proposal has the best value. You don't necessarily go with the low bidder."

After resolving two small business protests, Alecozay faced her first

"This award means a great deal to me. Small business is the backbone of our economy."

Reinette Alecozay, of the Air **Education and Training Command** holds the award for Department of **Defense Small Business Contracting Professional of the** Year. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

Governmental Accounting Office protest.

"Even though you may have done everything right, a disgruntled contractor can protest to the GAO," Alecozay said.

GAO protests must be answered very quickly, and all contract work is placed on hold until the protest is resolved. Ms. Alecozay said after a volume of work had been done toward making the case for NFFM, the opposing company withdrew the protest.

NFFM began flightline maintenance work at Luke AFB in April 2004. The contract was awarded in a record time of nine months following the three protests. History has shown that other aircraft maintenance contracts take 12 to 18 months to finalize, Alecozay said.

"This award means a great deal to me," Ms. Alecozay, a long-time advocate of small business, said. "Small business is the backbone of our economy."

# Air Force makes changes to BAH policy

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) - Beginning this month, the Air Force and other military services will eliminate geographic rate protection for the basic allowance for housing.

Over the last five years, geographic rate protection meant BAH rates around military communities could never drop, even when estimates for median housing costs in an area suggested they should.

Under the current system, new arrivals at an installation would receive the protected BAH rate, even if housing rates in the area had dropped and adequate housing was available for them at a lower

In 2006, BAH rates will fluctuate yearly based on housing cost estimates made from data collected regionally by military housing offices. The budgetconscious move by the Department of Defense is designed to save money at a time when resources are

Under the new system, people who remain in an area will never see a lowering of their individual BAH rate. That policy, called individual rate protection, is designed to ensure Airmen, and other military members who have already established homes, aren't faced with a cut in their BAH rate.

Individual rate protection is designed to protect Airmen when the median housing rates in an area drop but landlords don't lower rents to match them.

Individual rate protection ensures Airmen will always receive ample funding to remain in the homes they have established, and at the same time provides DOD a common-sense way to fund that allowance.

But the policy will create situations where two military members of the same rank and with the same dependent status may receive different BAH rates. Individual rate protection allows in-place members to keep their BAH rate for a region while BAH rates in the area may fall, so a newcomer can get the same quality of housing at a lower cost.

"When you signed your lease, you were locked into a rate in a housing market that had a higher cost, on average," said Capt. Charles Parada, chief of the Air

"The new BAH program will always allow you to afford adequate housing for your grade and dependency status in the current market."

> Capt. Charles Parada Chief of the Air Force's basic allowance for housing program

Force's basic allowance for housing program. "But a newcomer could face a lower-cost market."

Capt. Parada said whatever BAH rate a member receives at a new duty station will be fair.

The new BAH program will always allow you to afford adequate housing for your grade and dependency status in the current market," he said.

Capt. Parada also said that all members in a region are entitled to increases in the BAH rate as they occur.

Besides changes to rate protection, there are two additional changes to BAH coming for the Air Force and other services in the 2006. The first is the elimination of the BAH differential for members living off base. The second is a change to in-transit BAH rates for new Airmen.

"What members will be paid now is a BAH rate with dependents, versus the BAH differential," Capt. Parada said. "In most cases, the new rate will be an increase for members though in some areas it may be lower."

The BAH differential is a flat rate, based on grade, paid to members who are paying court-ordered child support. In 2006, the differential will no longer exist for members residing off base. Instead, they will receive the BAH with-dependents rate, even if they have no dependents in their home. Because the BAH with-dependents rate fluctuates region to region, some members in low-cost housing markets may receive less money than they had with the flat-rate BAH differential though the situation occurs in few areas, Capt. Parada said.

The BAH differential rate will also be eliminated outside the United States. But there, members receive an overseas housing allowance, or OHA, instead of the Stateside BAH. Like in the United States, with the elimination of the BAH differential, members overseas residing off base will begin receiving the OHA withdependent rate, but unlike in the United States, overseas members do not always receive the full OHA. Instead, they receive only that amount they spend on rent. For those members, it will be impossible to extract the extra benefit provided by an OHA withdependent rate to use toward child support.

Under the new plan for BAH differential, members entitled to the differential will continue to receive it if they live in government quarters.

A final change to military BAH policy involves new military members who are traveling from their initial training location to their first duty station.

When new accessions to the Air Force travel from their initial training location to their first duty station, they are said to be "in transit." Most new Airmen who are single receive the BAH II rate, commonly called "BAH in transit." Like the BAH differential, BAH II is a flat rate, tied only to a member's rank.

Today, almost all new unaccompanied Airmen receive the BAH II rate as they travel to their first duty station. That group of Airmen includes officer training school graduates (non-prior service) and basic trainees. The exception has been Airmen coming out of the Air Force Academy. Those new officers, upon graduation, received the full BAH rate based on housing costs in Colorado Springs, Colo., the location of the school.

In 2006, Air Force Academy graduates will begin receiving only the BAH II rate until they arrive at their new duty station. That change was based on what other services were paying to their service academy graduates and on a general perception of equity among all military members, Capt. Parada said.

He also said that, under the new policy, new members with dependents continue to be entitled to

People with questions on BAH payments should visit: https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem or send an e-mail to finance.callcenter@randolph.af.mil.

# New 12th FTW command chief sets high standards

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

"My goal is to see that Randolph develops the reputation as being the assignment of choice for Airmen throughout the Air Force."

That's a tall order, but for someone who started out as a flight line mechanic working on the B-2 bomber when it was still in the developmental stage, that statement reveals a sense of uncommon vision and dedication. That's what Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Page brings to his new job as 12th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant.

As the wing's top enlisted member, Chief Page advises the 12th FTW commander on the health, welfare, morale, mission effectiveness and proper utilization of the more than 1,000 enlisted troops assigned to the wing.

Chief Page was no stranger to the 12th FTW when he arrived at his new desk in the Taj Mahal four months ago. He had been the first sergeant at the Air Force Personnel Center here and then the first person to fill the full time superintendent position there when it was created a year and a half ago. Moving to the wing was just a move down the block, he said.

"Randolph is the flagship base of the Air Education and Training Command," he said. "That means it's not only a physical showplace but it's also going to be in the focus of attention for the development of people. That's the challenge I really want us to embrace."

It's one thing to talk about theories of management, but another to put them into practice. Watching Chief Page listen and talk with the wing's Airmen is to see him put theory to work. His office is well furnished, but he is more likely to be out with the troops than sitting behind his desk.

As the father of three makes visits around the base, he often asks Airmen about the role models they look up to. He gets many different answers, including family members, celebrities and military heroes of the past.

"Are there heroes in the Air Force today?" he asked. "Take someone like Tech. Sgt. Dan Vargas over at the Air Force Recruiting Service. There's a hero. He's taken it on himself to spend time with the wounded veterans of all the services at Brooke Army Medical Center. Whatever they need, he volunteers to help wherever he can. There's a real hero."



Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Page, 12th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant (right), reviews work schedules with Staff Sgt. Chenae Davis and Tech. Sgt. Vanessa Trujillo, who are both assigned to the 12th FTW command center. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

When the talk turns to larger issues, Chief Page smiles and launches into his vision for the future.

"The Air Force is facing some real challenges over the next 10 years," he said. "With force shaping and personnel draw downs, with increasing civilianization and now privatization too, we will see new requirements for our changing work force. We need to plan how we will train non-military people to work with people in uniform."

That challenge works both ways, he said. The military people need to learn how to work with civilians, and the civilians need to understand the role of the people in uniform.

"Then we also need to stay involved with our local communities, as well," he said. "We can't function without them and they need us too."

Chief Page said he is especially concerned about the development of senior NCOs.

For Team Randolph, that means the senior enlisted members need to understand not only their own unit's role in the local mission but also how the different units on base fit together, he said.

"Randolph is unique in the variety of missions

performed here," he added. "This is a great laboratory for learning the roles of senior NCO-level management."

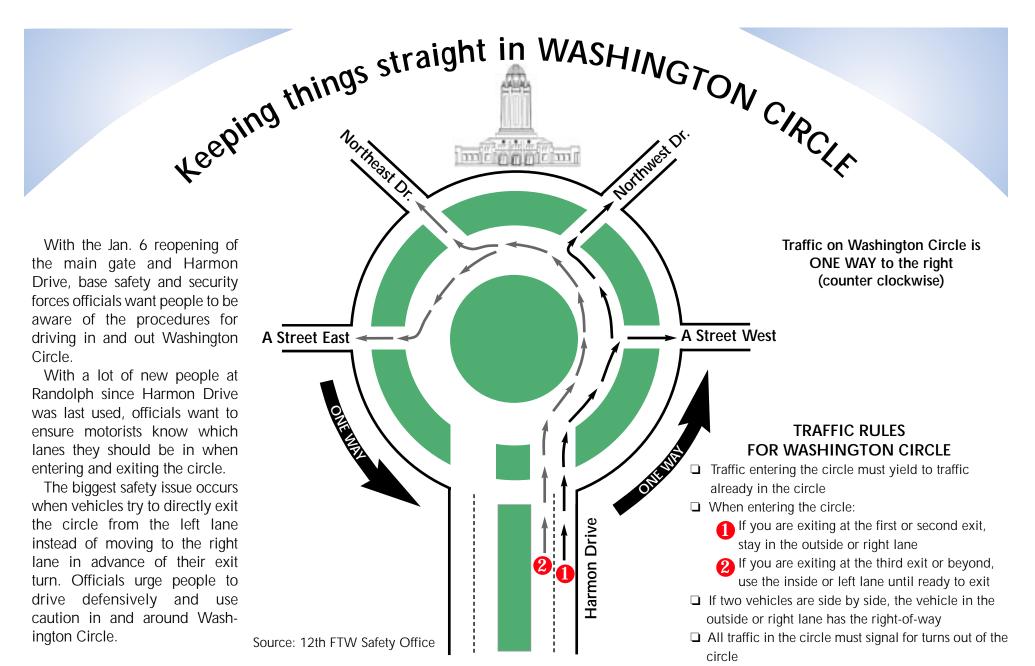
The command chief takes this view one step further with the officer and enlisted relationship.

"We support the officers who have responsibility for our organizations," he said, "But we need to also support the Airmen who serve with us. That's what servant leadership is about."

The chief added that he is really motivated about his new role as the wing command chief master sergeant and looks forward to dealing with these issues and working with Team Randolph Airmen.

"These are exciting times for the Air Force," the chief said. "Good times and challenging times. But meeting those challenges requires that we are motivated from the top down to the last person on the base.

"My task is to help provide that motivation, resolve problems that the enlisted people may have and help them keep focused on the mission. That means the mission not only of the 12th Wing but also the missions of all our tenant units. We are a team together."





Ron Raymond (left), 12th Logistics Readiness Division material handler, checks the mobility bags of Capt. Craig Gong, Air Force Recruiting Service, and other Randolph Airmen Wednesday at the deployment processing center. More than 20 people completed mobility processing for upcoming Air and Space Expeditionary Force cycle deployments. (Photo by Javier Garcia)

# Redeployment training eases transition back home

By Jennifer Valentin Wingspread staff writer

Returning from a deployment, although a happy time for military members, can also be a stressful time readjusting to home surroundings, family and friends.

To help ease this transition, the family support center has streamlined its redeployment training process to provide the most helpful information to members within days of their return.

The mandatory redeployment training must be completed within seven days of a member's return, rather than the 14-60 days allotted in the previous training program, and must be completed before the person can take post-deployment down time or leave.

The training, which lasts about three hours, includes briefings and information from various base organizations including the family support center, life skills, chaplain's office, legal, public health and finance.

"The training will be offered twice per week,

giving more members the chance to attend the mandatory training sooner, so they can get back to their families and get settled back into their daily routines," said Master Sgt. Todd Remington, family support center NCO in charge of readiness.

Classes are offered Tuesday and Friday at 7:30 a.m. in Building 52, the deployment processing center.

During the class, people have the opportunity to ask questions about any issues they may be facing related to their redeployment, Sergeant Remington said. They can also find out where they need to go and who they need to talk to if they have any problems or concerns while adjusting to life after deployment.

"Air Force members are experiencing some definite hardships in the field, especially with many of them doing joint deployments with the other services," said Capt. Camille LaDrew, assistant installation deployment officer. "This training gives members outlets to help them cope with the stresses of post-deployment."

Spouses of returning members can also attend the class.

"I encourage members to bring their spouses with them to the return training," Sergeant Remington said. "Not only is the information beneficial to the member, but it is beneficial to the spouse as well, so they can understand what the member is going through."

Spouses may have questions about what to expect when the military member returns home, Sergeant Remington said. The training is their chance to ask any questions they may have or to have their concerns addressed.

Childcare is available for people who want to bring their spouses to the training.

"As someone who will be deploying and who has been hands-on with the new process, I know the program will be beneficial to the member, making the transition back to their daily lives a little easier," Captain LaDrew said.

For more information on the training, call 652-5321.

### COMMUNITY

# Furry friends need help fighting frost

### Animal experts provide tips to keep pets warm during winter

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Winter is here, and just as people feel the chilly winds and cold temperatures of late evening and early morning, so do pets.

Like their owners, dogs and cats need shelter and protection from the cold.

With that in mind, local animal experts, along with those at the American Humane Association, have provided some steps people can take to care for their pets in the winter.

Pet owners with cats are encouraged to keep their felines inside year round, especially during the winter months, said AHA officials. Outdoor cats run the risk of getting frostbite on their ears or other serious medical problems. If they are left on their own to find warmth, they could end up crawling under a car and getting hurt.

Dogs should also be kept inside

during the winter, AHA officials said. However, if a person has a dog that enjoys spending time outdoors, the dog should have a dry and draft-free shelter where it can escape the cold.

According to the AHA, the shelter should have enough room for the dog to move around freely, yet be small enough to keep it warm. Also, the floor of the shelter should be raised a few inches from the ground. A layer of cedar chips or clean straw can help raise the shelter and provide added warmth, officials said.

"A simple dog house is often inadequate for proper protection," said Cpl. Louisa Vaughan, NCO in charge of Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Services. "Items such as the shelter mentioned, as well as pillows and even sweaters and jackets designed for dogs can help if the dog must stay outdoors."

While some pet owners might consider heat lamps or portable electric heaters for their outdoor animals Corporal Vaughan warns they could pose a fire hazard.

"If they are used, they must be closely supervised by the pet's owner," Corporal Vaughan said.

Heating blankets should not be used either, as they could cause injury to the pet, she added.

If pets are kept outside in a garage, the garage should be free of potential toxic substances, such as motor oil, antifreeze and pesticides, said Corporal Vaughan. Spills in the garage should also be cleaned up before a pet stays there.

"While some animals are capable of withstanding temperature changes and extremes, this is dependent on species, breed, age, illness and previous weather exposure history," Corporal Vaughan said.

The corporal suggests that pet owners should be prepared to move their animals indoors as cold weather rolls in.

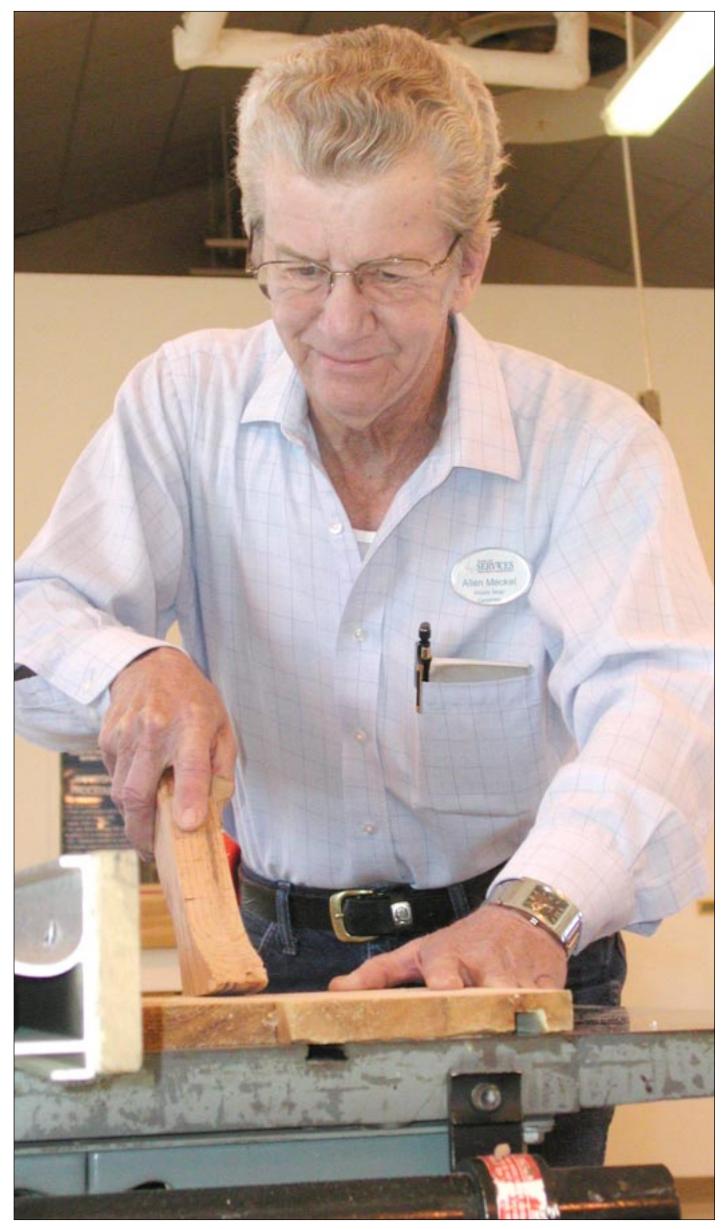
"The winter months in Texas can be fairly mild compared with other areas of



the country; however, temperatures routinely drop low enough to become potentially dangerous for our furry family members," Corporal Vaughan said.

For more information, call the Randolph Veterinarian Clinic at 652-3190.

### Tool time



Allen Meckel, wood skills center carpenter, cuts wood for one of the many projects that can be accomplished using the tools at the center. Wood skills center customers must be certified on all wood working equipment before using any of the machines. Those interested in taking a certification course can do so through the wood skills center. The class costs \$25 and covers the step-by-step safe operating procedures for each piece of equipment. To sign up for a class or for more information about the wood skills center, call 652-7422. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

"I began with just tuning up the engine of my 1972 Super Beetle to get good performance, but then I discovered that there is a whole world of exciting performance that goes beyond what stock engines can do."

Maj. Dave Waller Chief of 12th Operations Group Plans and Programs



By Bob Hieronymus Wingspread staff writer

Zero to 110 miles per hour in six seconds and one-eighth of a mile. That's just 660 feet. And in a Volkswagen Beetle!

"That's my best time so far," said Maj. Dave Waller, chief of 12th Operations Group Plans and Programs, "but my car does pretty well on the quarter mile, too. Zero to 150 mph in nine seconds."

Records like these don't come easily, he said. And Major Waller should know, having been involved in VW racing for 21 years.

He started working on cars when he was in high school and discovered a sense of satisfaction in finding ways to get the most performance out of stock engines.

"I began with just tuning up the engine of my 1972 Super Beetle to get good performance, but then I discovered that there is a whole world of exciting performance that goes beyond what stock engines can do," the major said. "It didn't take me long and I was ready to pick on Mustang GTs and other unsuspecting V8s."

His current car is a highly modified 1966 Volkswagen. It weighs in at about 1,200 pounds, but the engine produces up to 300 horsepower. "No longer street legal," he said with a grin.

The car was originally equipped at the factory with

a 40-horsepower, 1,600-cubic centimeters, air-cooled engine. Although the crankcase is still stock, it's the only thing on the engine that is, he said.

The cylinders, heads, pistons, four carburetors and just about everything else that makes the engine run is designed for high performance.

It has a special computer that controls engine speed up to 9,000 rpm so that it responds instantly to the lightning-fast gear shifting required for competitive drag racing.

Major Waller has owned this car for 10 years. He bought it already partly modified from a friend, but has put in countless hours to rebuild it.

Last year, he completed a four-year refurbishment project on it, taking it down to bare metal and totally rebuilding it. The showroom quality finish reflects his attention to every detail, including the orange-red flames that decorate its sides. The major quickly points out that he had help from his 13-year old son, David Junior, who is eagerly learning everything about the care and feeding of a high-tech machine.

"I'm proud of the way David is working this project with me," he said. "This car's a real winner. We rebuilt it together and now take it to shows and races together. He's learning skills that he'll use all his life. I think that's great."

Major Waller enters about 10 events a year, which means up to 60 individual races. "Most of the events are within easy driving distance of San Antonio, but

> there are drag racing events wherever my next Air Force assignment takes us."

The major says the payoff comes when he wins not only the races but also the prizes for show quality.

"Winning races is always a thrill," he said, "but the satisfaction really comes when you know you did all the hard work yourself. And it's even better when I can share the work and the rewards with my family."

The major and his car won first place at the 2001 "North vs. South Shootout" in Darlington, S.C., one of drag racing's big national events. His latest reward was



David Waller Jr. does his share of the work to keep his dad's car in top show condition. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

finding out he and his car were chosen by Hot VW magazine for a special photo spread that is scheduled for one of the early 2006 editions. Shots of his car alongside a T-38 will be featured in the article.

"It's really great to be recognized by the professionals who put out the magazine. Not many racers get this kind of coverage," he said. "The idea of showing two of my passions, drag racing hot VWs and flying high performance military aircraft, on one photo is more than I could ever have imagined when I started racing as a 16-year-old kid."

Major Waller's journey to becoming an Air Force officer and pilot was no easy task either, he said. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1989 as an aircraft mechanic, became a crew chief, and then was selected for the Airman's Education and Commissioning Program.

After three years in the college program and commissioning he was chosen for navigator training but was denied his application for pilot training because of a minor vision deficiency. He didn't give up, however, and won the pilot training slot after he thoroughly researched the medical criteria of the application process.

He went on to become a C-141 pilot, flying special operations missions in the Middle East. With his broad experience in aircraft maintenance and operations, as well as all the planning that goes into racing, he said he enjoys his current position developing plans for contingency operations on Randolph.

"I guess I'm one of the really lucky people who can enjoy two jobs, professional flying and competitive drag racing. And then being able to share so much with my family just adds that much more to it all. One big goal yet is to be the fastest bug on the planet!" he laughed.

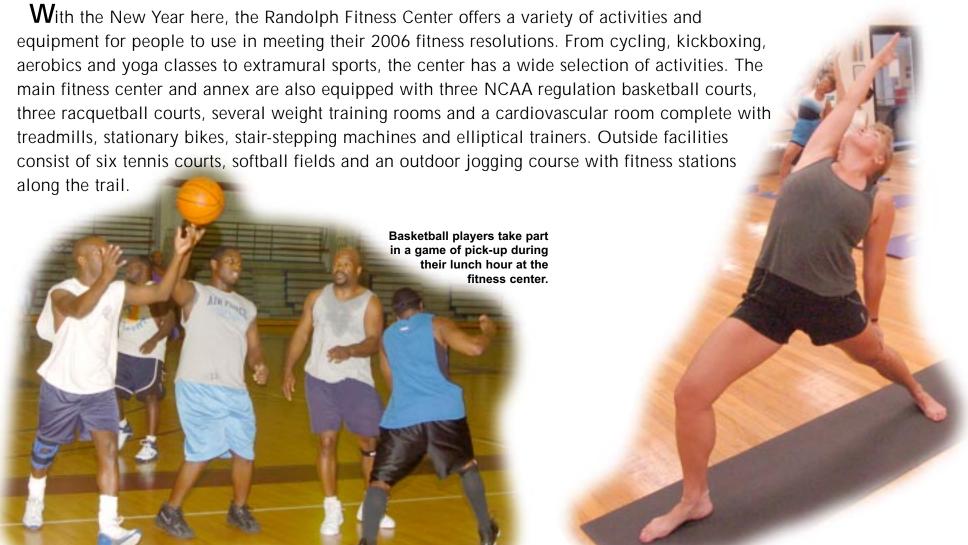


Major Waller proudly shows the finely detailed workmanship of his award-winning 1966 VW drag racing car. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)



Master Sgt. Shaun White works his triceps as Senior Master Sgt. Rod Hoskinson waits for a turn on the machine at the base fitness center. Both sergeants are from 19th Air Force. (Photos by Steve White)

# Fit for service, fit for life



Wendy Wilmunen leads a yoga class at the fitness center recently. Yoga classes are offered Monday at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday at 9 a.m., Thursday at

10 a.m. and Friday at 5 p.m.



### Intramural Bowling Standings

As of Monday Team **AFSVA** 42 46 82 CS SVS 80 48 AETC/SC 78 50 AMO 78 50 74 **AFMA** 54 AETC/LG 72 56 **DFAS** 72 71 57 SFS **AFPC** 70 58 68 60 AETC/FM **AFPOA** 64 64 63 **RATS** 65 **JPPSO** 52 76 **CPTS** 52 76 50 78 OSS **AFSAT** 44 44 340 FTG 84 AFPC/DFSG 42 86 MED GP 94

#### **TEAM SCRATCH SERIES**

Score

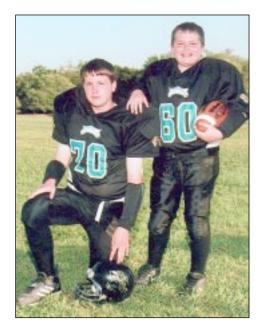
3149

Team

AETC/LG

AFPC	2918
AFSVA	2738
RATS	2531
<b>TEAM HANDICAP</b>	SERIES
Team	Score
AETC/SC	3286

### **SPORTS BRIEFS**



David and John Feest

#### Brothers earn awards

Two Randolph brothers recently took first and second place in the Texas Youth Football Association Scholastic Awards Program.

David Feest is an eighth grader at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, and is a team captain for the TYFA Senior Jaguars, playing offensive and defensive line. David took first place.

John Feest, a fifth grader at the same school, plays offensive and defensive line for the TYFA Junior Jaguars. John took second place. The Feest family is assigned to Air Education and Training Command and lives on Randolph. TYFA uses their program to recognize academic achievement within its ranks. They also encourage children who are interested in football to also prioritize their academics.

#### Weight training for beginners

Basic weight training is scheduled Jan. 24 at 9 a.m. in the conference room for a classroom session, then on Jan. 26, students meet at 9 a.m. in the Paramount Room in Hangar 71 for the class.

The class covers technique, training, safety, anatomy and some physiology. Students should come dressed to work out.

The class is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Active duty members have priority. The class is free.

For more information, call the fitness center at 652-2955.

#### Randolph powerlifters excel

Randolph High School's powerlifters walked away with 10 awards at the Pleasanton Powerlifting Meet held recently.

Together, the Randolph girls' and

boys' teams earned one first place award, one second place award, two third places, three fourth places and three fifth places.

The powerlifters compete again Jan. 21 at Hayes High School.

#### Ro-Hawks win tournament

The Randolph High School Boys varsity basketball team went undefeated in the Natalia Holiday Tournament recently, improving their season record to 11-4. Senior Sean Applewhite was selected as the most valuable player. Will Kent and Elliott Ortiz were selected for the all tournament team. Randolph defeated Natalia in the finals 62-60.

#### Gridders earn district honors

Randolph High School seniors Sean Applewhite, Zach Collins and Kyle Kuhl earned recognition for their performances this past football season.

Zach was named overall Most Valuable Player in District 27-2A.

Kyle was named the district's defensive MVP and made the Associated Press' 2A All-State Second Team.

Sean received recognition for two all-district positions: wide receiver on the first team and defensive back on the second team.

# Whatever your game, PLAY it SAFE

### DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE